

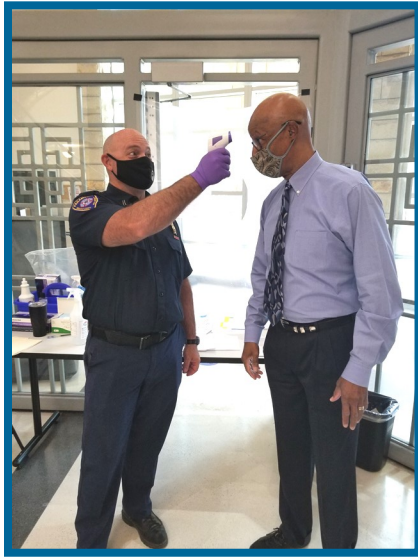
July 10 2020

Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

Bernalillo County Fire Department responds to court's COVID-19 screening needs

If you have been onsite at the downtown courthouse or the Juvenile Justice Center this week, you may have been questioned—and had your temperature taken—by a Bernalillo County firefighter.



Bernalillo County Fire Department Captain Shawn Williams checks Chief Judge Stan Whitaker's temperature.

These dedicated public servants will be handling the bulk of the COVID-19 screening procedures at our courthouses for at least the next two weeks. Second Judicial District Court employees are handling these duties during lunch hours and when the firefighters need to take breaks.

We all should be grateful for the help we are getting from our county firefighters.

This effort started with a conversation between the court's Chief Legal Counsel and Acting Court Executive Officer Liz Garcia and the County Fire Marshal Keith Clark, who regularly inspects our facilities to ensure we are in compliance with fire codes.

After Liz wondered aloud if the fire department could help with COVID-19 screening at the court, Fire Marshal Clark presented the idea to his boss, the department's Deputy Chief Zachary Lardy.

"We recognized that this was new for the court employees, but it was something we have been doing at our fire stations for a while," Chief Lardy said. "All of our staff, and any member of the public who enters one of our stations, has to go through COVID screening and have their temperature taken. So, when I got the request, I looked into how we could respond."

As it turned out, this was one time where life in the time of the coronavirus made things a bit easier. Because the fire department has a number of staff members currently working from home, Chief Lardy said it was easier to deploy them to the courthouses. Five Bernalillo County firefighters rotate through the courthouses each day, handling screenings from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

"We schedule them around their normal duties," Chief Lardy said. "So, we have not had to take any personnel out of the field." And while screening people for potential exposure to COVID-19 may not, at first glance, seem like a job for firefighters, Chief Lardy said it is within the department's mission.

"We try to devote as much time to prevention as we do to response," he said, "and this definitely is a prevention activity." In other words, helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is just as important as responding to a 911 call for a person exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

"We are happy to be a partner in keeping the community safe by pre-screening people coming into the courthouse," Chief Lardy added. "It is helping to minimize the impact of COVID-19 in our community."



Shout outs



This is the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.

This week's shout out goes to the **Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department Deputies** who continue to provide security for all of our court facilities during the pandemic.

Technically, they are not court employees, but they are part of the SJDC family. When you see one of them, tell them **THANK YOU** for always being there for us.

We need more news and notes. Share your stories by contacting us at:
albdxh@nmcourt.gov

JJC temperature takers

In addition to the assistance from the Bernalillo County Fire Department, nearly 100 SJDC employees have volunteered for COVID-19 screening duties at our two courthouses. Pictured here are just a few of the volunteer screeners at the Juvenile Justice Center.

In front is Bernalillo County Fire Department Chaplain William Henson.

In the second row are Edna Kasuse and Paula Rogers. In the back row are Stephanie Gallegos, Michael Baldwin and Amanda Martinez.

Other volunteers not pictured include Bernalillo County Fire Department Engineer Marcelino Martinez and JJC staffers Lindsey Jones, Keith Copsin, John Schoeppner and Monica Rodriguez.



See the sites without leaving home

Want to take a trip free from worries about contracting COVID-19? The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs is offering virtual tours of cultural, educational and historic sites across the state.

You can visit libraries, museums, art galleries and historical sites from Rio Arriba County in Northern New Mexico to Dona Ana County on the state's southern tip, as well numerous locations in between.

Start your adventure by [clicking here](#).

Identify the graduate

A number of people correctly identified last week's graduate: Judge Amber Chavez Baker. The first correct answer came from Renee Pascetti Cerami in the Court Clinic. Renee, pick up your prize from [Janet Van Why](#) in HR. This week's graduate photo is [posted here](#). Good luck, everyone.

